WE CLAIM:
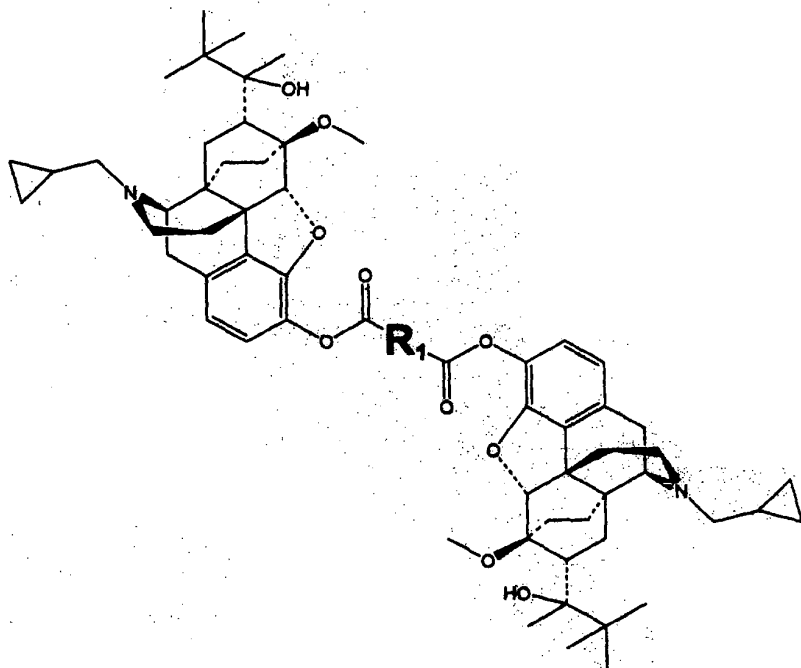
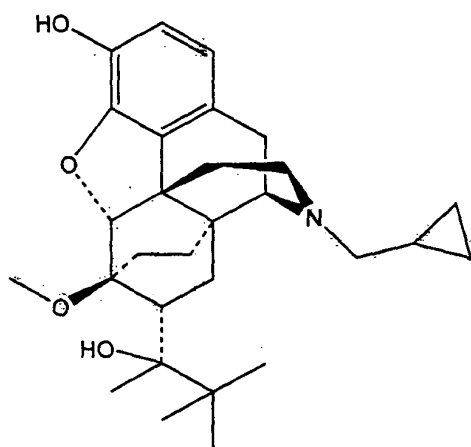1. A dibuprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula (II):

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(II)

wherein R_1 is a divalent moiety of a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic group optionally substituted with a phenyl group.

10   2. The dibuprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative as claimed in claim 1, wherein R_1 is an alkylene group having 1 to 40 carbon atoms.

3. The dibuprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative as claimed in claim 2, wherein R_1 is an alkylene group having

15   1 to 20 carbon atoms.

4. The dibuprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative as

claimed in claim 1, which is selected from dibuprenorphine
pimelate and dibuprenorphine sebacoyl ester.

5. An analgesic pharmaceutical composition for
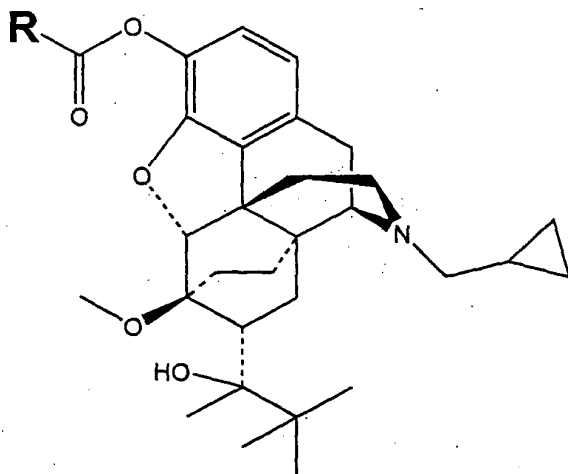intramuscular or subcutaneous administration, comprising

5   a therapeutically effective amount of a compound selected
from the group consisting of buprenorphine base of formula
(A)

(A) ;

a buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula

10   (I)

(I),

wherein R is selected from the group consisting of a straight-chain or branched saturated or unsaturated aliphatic group optionally substituted with an aryl group, and an aryl group optionally substituted with a

5   straight-chain or branched saturated or unsaturated aliphatic group, with the proviso that R is not selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, n-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl and isopropyl; and

a buprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula
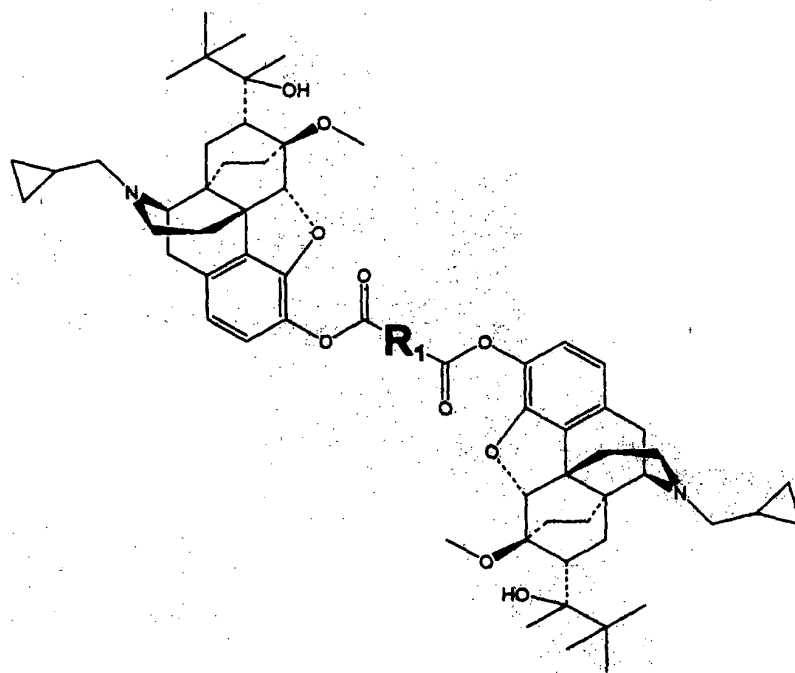
10   (II)

(II),

wherein R_1 is a divalent moiety of a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic group optionally substituted with a phenyl group; and

15   a pharmaceutically acceptable oil carrier.

6. The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in

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Claim 5, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula (II), wherein R_1 is an alkylene group having 1 to 40 carbon atoms.

7. The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula (II), wherein R_1 is an alkylene group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

8. The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I), wherein R is an alkyl group optionally substituted with a phenyl group.

9. The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I), wherein R is an alkyl group having 2 to 40 carbon atoms.

10. The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I), wherein R is an alkyl group having 5 to 20 carbon atoms.

11. The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I), wherein R is selected from the group consisting of a straight-chain alkyl group optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a branched alkyl group optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a phenyl group optionally substituted with a straight-chain aliphatic group, and a phenyl group

optionally substituted with a branched aliphatic group.

12. The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of dibuprenorphine pimelate, dibuprenorphine sebacoyl ester, buprenorphine pivalate, buprenorphine benzoate, buprenorphine decanoate and buprenorphine palmitate.

13. The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said oil carrier is selected from the group consisting of sesame oil, castor oil, cotton seed oil, soybean oil, peanut oil or ethyl ester of peanut oil, and a combination thereof.

14. A method of providing a prolonged analgesia to an animal or human comprising administering intramuscularly or subcutaneously to an animal or human in need of such treatment an effective amount of the composition of claim 5.